MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Emergency RFP #002
for
MSDH COVID-19 School Screening Testing

AMENDMENT #3- ATTACHMENT A
July 7, 2021

AMENDED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*****THIS RESPONSE HAS BEEN AMENDED TO INCLUDE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS 61-68 THAT WERE INADVERTELY NOT INCLUDED IN THE ORINGINAL POSTING. ALL OTHER RESPONE REMAIN THE SAME ****

	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
1.	Please confirm or clarify the statement during the conference that the ordering/supervising physician does not need to be licensed in the state of Mississippi.	**The Ordering / Supervising physician can be licensed and perform their duties out of state.**
2.	Please confirm or clarify that self-collected testing is acceptable as long as it is supervised as required by the testing manufacturer.	**Yes, vendor observed self collected samples can be utilized as long as it adheres to the requirements for the test from the manufacturer and has an appropriate turnaround. Home tests or unsupervised self-collection is not acceptable.**
3.	Please confirm or clarify that the schools and districts will be provided the name of the awarded vendor prior to the vendor contacting them	**School districts will be provided the name of the awarded vendor for their region after award.**
4.	Please confirm or clarify that vendor service areas will not	**If there are multiple vendors awarded, their region will not**

	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
	overlap and create competition among vendors to test the same schools/districts	**overlap with other regions.**
5.	Please confirm or clarify that the schools will provide parental consent forms.	**Schools will utilize their own parental consent forms.**
6	It was mentioned at the conference that vendors would have a good idea of testing volume prior to the testing event because parental consent forms would have already been sent and returned prior to the testing date. Please confirm or clarify who will be responsible for sending and receiving the parental consent forms.	**The schools will be responsible for gathering and maintaining consent forms from parents and communicating with the vendor the number of students and staff to test. Vendor(s) will need to coordinate with each school and determine a process for receipt of consents before conducting testing.** **For those who do not need parental consents (adults), the vendor will need to coordinate with each school and create a process for the vendor to understand how adults will be scheduled for testing.**
7.	Will awards be split by region and if so, how many vendors will be awarded by region?	**It is the State's intent to award no more than one Vendor per region. A Vendor may be awarded one , two or all three regions. MSDH reserves the right to award to multiple vendors if it determines that is in the best interest of the State.**
8.	Will parental consent forms be required each time the student is tested, or will the initial consent be sufficient for recurring testing?	**MSDH recommends that a screening testing consent form for the entire school year or at minimum, a semester. Vendors should work with schools to make sure the form is appropriate for the school and Vendor**
9.	Will the vendor be required to set up at a school for hours in excess of what is required to test the number of students registered? For example, if 40 students need to be tested and the vendor can complete testing of those 40 students in 2 hours, will the vendor be required to stay on site for additional time?	**It is the Vendor(s) responsibility to coordinate the specific weekly testing schedule with each school.**
10.	Will or may the vendor require that students be made	**It is the Vendor(s) responsibility to coordinate the specific weekly**

	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
	available at set times for testing in groups or will the vendor be expected to stay onsite for a block of time waiting for students to arrive for testing individually	**testing schedule with each school.**
11.	Will the schools/districts be required to provide electronic data lists for the students, teachers, and staff that will be tested? If not, who is responsible for reconciling vendor registration data with school data? For example, if the vendor must rely on a student or parent to provide the registration data and that individual provides the name "Michael Smith" but the name of record is actually John M. Smith, the vendor would have no way to reconcile this information unless they receive a data file from the school/district.	**No. School Districts / Schools will not be required to provide electronic data lists.** **It is the Vendor(s) responsibility to coordinate the specific weekly testing schedule with each school. This should include any data needs the vendor may have.**
12.	As several vendors indicated during the conference without knowing actual volume it is very difficult to estimate pricing with the current RFP structure. Testing costs are often based on hourly costs or event size, both of which are highly dependent upon staffing costs for specimen collectors. Would it be possible to amend the RFP to include any of the items below so that we may provide Mississippi with the lowest possible cost for testing? a. Option to provide hourly pricing by capacity(number of tests) per hour. A team with 1 specimen collector would not cost the same amount as a team with 5 specimen collectors so the capacity part of the hourly rate is important. b. Option to add daily minimums to the per test	**No, Vendors must utilize the Cost Table in the RFP using** 1. **One Time Setup fee for each participating school** 2. **Individual Test rates** **The purpose for this model is to be able to evaluate the responses accurately.**

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
pricing. c. Option to provide daily pricing per team with clarification of the per team composition or expected daily testing capacity per team. d. Testing Price by volume or tiered for event total. This would be a per test rate by number tested such as <50, 50-100, 100-200, 200-500, 500+	
13. Will the event hours for school testing events exceed 8 hours per day?	**It is the Vendor(s) responsibility to coordinate the specific weekly testing schedule with each school.**
14. Do you anticipate testing outside of school days/hours?	**It is the Vendor(s) responsibility to coordinate the specific weekly testing schedule with each school.**
15. During the conference it was mentioned that individual schools may have specific requirements for background checks, could you please provide a list of any requirements not covered under traditional background checks? If this information is not available, could you amend the pricing submission to allow us to submit pricing for additional background check elements or indicate it may be submitted as a direct pass through?	**It is the Vendor(s) responsibility to coordinate the specific school background checks with each school.** **No amendment to the Cost Table will need to implemented as these requirements will not be greater than the state's.**
16. Please confirm or clarify that recurring testing will occur weekly?	**The RFP's Testing Algorithm clearly states "weekly" screening testing.**
17. How many days per week will school testing occur? Will any single site be required to test over 40 hours per week?	**It is the Vendor(s) responsibility to coordinate the specific weekly testing schedule with each school.**
18. Please confirm or clarify that a single point of contact will be provided to the vendors for each school or school district assigned?	**Awarded Vendor(s) will receive contacts at a minimum for each School District. Vendor(s) are required first to coordinate with the School Districts before contacting schools to determine participation at the District level and also, possibly, gain all**

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
	contact information for the schools in the district.
19. Will space be allocated to vendors at the school or district level to store supplies and equipment such as folding tables or carts?	**It is the Vendor(s) responsibility to coordinate the specific storage capability with each school.**
20. Will testing of any age groups require parents to be physically present?	**There is no requirement for parents to be present (or not be present).** **It is the Vendor(s) responsibility to coordinate specifics regarding the weekly testing schedule with each school.**
21. Do you anticipate sufficient volume of tests in a geographic region for the vendor to employ full time testing teams or is the vendor expected to have teams on standby for ad hoc deployment?	**Regarding expected volume, MSDH has the same insight that awarded Vendor(s) will have. It is the Vendor(s) responsibility to coordinate the specific weekly testing schedule with each school. Volume estimates should be discussed during this coordination.**
22. What lead time will the vendor be given to deploy a testing team to a new location.	**It is the Vendor(s) responsibility to coordinate the specific weekly testing schedule with each school.**
23. Will the vendor be expected to provide a customer service call line for parents and staff and if so, what are the expected days/hours of operation?	**If an awarded vendor wants to implement a customer service line to enhance their offering, that will be at their discretion. There is no requirement to provide a customer service call line for parents and staff.**
24. Would the state please consider adding a separate line item for labor/collection services vs. having a fully loaded test rate? Although the state has provided a # of students and faculty per region, there is still a high level of uncertainty on the level of participants given this is a voluntary program. A more accurate quote could be provided to the state by, allowing a price break out per test (inclusive of test kit & laboratory services, shipping & handling, etc.) with a labor line item indicating the cost of specimen collection/supervision on a range of participants.	**No, Vendors must utilize the Cost Table in the RFP using** **1. One Time Setup fee for each participating school** **2. Individual Test rates** **The purpose for this model is to be able to evaluate the responses accurately.**

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
EXAMPLE: Test Rate for Rapid Antigen $_____ Test Rate for Molecular$_____ Labor - cost of collection services for 1 - 5,000 participants $_____ Labor - cost of collection services for 5,001-10,000 participants $ _____ Labor - cost of collection services for 10,001 - 15,000 participants $_____ etc.	
25. Does the state have a current supply of BinaxNOW tests or any other tests that could be utilized for this program?	**The vendor is responsible for supplying their own testing kits and supplies.**
26. We are an end-to-end software engine for K12 school testing and work with a network of lab providers. Is it acceptable for a bidder to satisfy the CLIA certification requirements in this RFP through use of a subcontracted lab?	**Yes, however all subcontractor fees must be included in the Prime Contractor's Cost Table. No reimbursement by MSDH will be made separate to contractors.**
27. Will the Contractor be directly billing insurance for payment?	**No. MSDH will be paying the vendor directly. Due to potential barriers to screening/testing MSDH nor the contracted vendor will not require or request insurance information to be collected for this service.**
28. Who is the payer of last resort?	**MSDH will be paying directly for this free testing service for students and teachers. Due to potential barriers to screening/testing MSDH nor the contracted vendor will not require or request insurance information to be collected for this service.**
29. Are there particular languages that MSDH requires for language access?	**All languages must be supported. MS does have a high population of Spanish and Vietnamese speaking citizens.**
30. Would the vendor be provided with contact information	**Awarded Vendor(s) will receive contacts at a minimum for each**

	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
	for each school and school district to onboard the schools?	**School District. Vendor(s) are required first to coordinate with the School Districts before contacting schools to determine participation at the District level and also, possibly, gain all contact information for the schools in the district.**
31.	Please specify MDSH's insurance coverage requirements.	**Due to potential barriers to screening/testing MSDH nor the contracted vendor will not require or request insurance information to be collected for this service.**
32.	Is there room for a site fee since there is no daily testing minimums?	**No. Vendors must utilize the Cost Table in the RFP using** 1. **One Time Setup fee for each participating school** 2. **Individual Test rates** **The purpose for this model is to be able to evaluate the responses accurately.**
33.	Since staffing is a major component of the service are you amenable to enabling an additional line item that includes a flat fee per testing day at a school that is separate from a per test fee?	**No. Vendors must utilize the Cost Table in the RFP using** 1. **One Time Setup fee for each participating school** 2. **Individual Test rates** **The purpose for this model is to be able to evaluate the responses accurately.**
34	Define testing turnaround time for PCR 24-48, we assume this is from sample collection vs receipt at the laboratory to making results available? Section 10, ii, 2 b, pg. 5	**Turnaround time starts with sample collection.**
35	Which languages to you anticipate are the ones which need to be made available under "Plan for provision of language access services;" Section 12, pg. 6	**All languages must be supported. MS does have a high population of Spanish and Vietnamese speaking citizens.**
36	"PROCUREMENT OF RECOVERED MATERIALS" Are there any EPA requirements for rapid tests or PPE we should know about? Attachment B, pg. 15	**MSDH is not aware of any specific EPA requirements.**
37	"E-Payment." Are there any specific technology or IT requirements necessary to have in place by vendor to comply? Attachment A, pg. 14	**Information re: registering to be paid by the state, to include technical requirements, can be found here: https://www.dfa.ms.gov/dfa-offices/mmrs/mississippi-suppliers-**

	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
		vendors/
38	Are there other methods that will be acceptable for providing weekly data to the state (e.g., dashboards, API, SFTP) other than the survey monkey site?	**Aggregate reporting is a grant requirement. MSDH will consider other reporting solutions if they meet the reporting requirements and do not add additional burden to MSDH reporting to our grantor.** **Aggregate data to be reported:** **School District / School** **Person completing report (submittor)** **Email address (submittor)** **Phone Number (submittor)** **Total # of students, faculty, staff tested for the reporting week** **Total # of negatives for the reporting week** **Total # of positives for the reporting week**
39	What languages need to be supported?	**All languages must be supported. MS does have a high population of Spanish and Vietnamese speaking citizens.**
40	How many public schools are there in each of the three regions?	**Please refer to the published RFP amendment: 14707.pdf (ms.gov)**
41	What percentage of schools do you anticipate participating in the testing program?	**MSDH does not have an estimated percentage of school participation.**
42	Please clarify the turnaround time of test results	**Turnaround time starts with sample collection and ends with time of positive/negative report to the state, school, individual and parent.**
43	How many days a week do you plan to test in schools?	**It is the Vendor(s) responsibility to coordinate the specific weekly testing schedule with each school.**
44	How many hours a day do you plan to test?	**It is the Vendor(s) responsibility to coordinate the specific weekly testing schedule with each school.**
45	How many students are you Testing now?	**Vendor conducted testing is considered Phase 2. MS is currently in Phase 1 (Summer School testing and schools are testing themselves). Most schools have indicated a preference for vendor-provided testing during Phase 2. Phase 1 has just started**

	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
		with one school conducting Summer School testing.
46	Do vendors need to be registered to bid? Or can they get registered after award?	**Paragraph 15 of the solicitation package states Vendor(s) can register within 7 days of notification of award**
47	Will the state accept Pooled Testing if vendors can meet the stated turnaround time goal?	**No. Pooled testing is not in the scope of the School Screening Testing project.**
48	Will the State consider a self-collected PCR Test with an FDA EUA for teachers/staff to be tested at home before school starts or during the year?	**No. Only vendor-observed self tests will be acceptable.**
49	Does the State want to Test students at home before they return to school?	**No.**
50	Since the anticipated start date 7/21/2021 and the award date is 7/19/2021, what are the expectations for the 7/21/2021 start date? Section 2, Pg. 1	**MSDH expects to host a Kickoff for all awarded vendor(s). Aside from that, awarded vendor's Operational Plan(s) should describe how they plan to start on 21 July and what information they will need from MSDH.**
51	"Vendors will be responsible for coordinating with each school district to determine individual school participation within their region." Will awarded vendors be responsible for contacting individual schools to implement agreements? Will multiple vendors be competing within the same regions? Section 7, Pg. 3	**Vendors will coordinate with the school districts and schools to determine and complete the school's School Testing Plan (on-going testing schedule, testing setup, test performance and reporting, hazardous waste disposal, etc.)** **If there are multiple vendors awarded, their region will not overlap with other regions.**
52	Will the state consider revising the pricing table to allow for tiered pricing based on volume? Example: 		<300 Students	300-700 Students	700-1500 Students	1500+ Students	 	Antigen					 	PCR						**No, Vendors must utilize the Cost Table in the RFP using** 1. **One Time Setup fee for each participating school** 2. **Individual Test rates** **The purpose for this model is to be able to evaluate the responses accurately.**
53	Would it be possible to provide a link to the recorded Pre-Bid Conference? Section 4, Page 2	**https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/19,23440,205.html**
54	Based on Section 7, Background, it seems that no schools or students are required to receive testing. Is this correct?	**Yes, there is no requirement for schools, students to receive testing.**

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
If yes, is the State of Mississippi willing to provide payment for a guaranteed minimum number of tests per week or month to the testing firm that is awarded the bid? Section 7, Page 3	**No, Vendors must utilize the Cost Table in the RFP using** 1. **One Time Setup fee for each participating school** 2. **Individual Test rates** **The purpose for this model is to be able to evaluate the responses accurately.**
55	The Testing Algorithm includes the following language: "Weekly screening of students (and teachers/coaches) participating in school sponsored extracurricular activities of any type, including sports, as a condition of participation (school district decision)." Is it possible to provide a list of school districts that have already made the decision to require testing under these conditions? Section 10, Page 4	**It is the vendor's responsibility to coordinate with each school district first to determine participation of the district and schools within the district.**
56	Does the vendor need to provide physician referrals as part of the testing services?	**No**
57	For pooled testing specifically, if the test is CLIA approved, does this suffice instead of the FDA EUA?	**Pooled testing is not considered in scope of the School Screen Testing project.**
58	For schools that sign up for testing, will the expectation be to perform all testing for that school in one day, or will testing be performed throughout the week at the school? Are there are any expected hours of operation for testing?	**It is the Vendor(s) responsibility to coordinate the specific weekly testing schedule with each school.**
59	The current pricing structure for the bid makes it difficult for bidders to give you the lowest price possible. We do not know the number of individuals who will test, how many hours we will need people on staff, or the number of staff needed. All of these factors impact pricing. For bidders to give you the lowest price possible while ensuring we do not incur a loss, we suggest that you consider changing the pricing model to one of the	**Vendors must utilize the Cost Table in the RFP using** 1. **One Time Setup fee for each participating school** 2. **Individual Test rates** **The purpose for this model is to be able to evaluate the responses**

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
following suggestions that we have seen other use for similar bids: SUGGESTION #1: Breaking out pricing as an hourly testing rate and a price per test. See below as an example. <table><tr><th>Item</th><th>Description</th><th>Unit</th><th>Unit Price</th><th>Extended Price</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Testing performed at schools</td><td>Hour</td><td>$</td><td>$</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Antigen</td><td>Each</td><td>$</td><td>$</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Pooled PCR Testing</td><td>Each</td><td>$</td><td>$</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>rt-PCR</td><td>Each</td><td>$</td><td>$</td></tr></table>	**accurately.**

60   1
Appendix C, Page 12
Test Rates
Would the state please consider adding a separate line item for labor/collection services vs. having a fully loaded test rate? Although the state has provided a # of students and faculty per region, there is still a high level of uncertainty on the level of participants given this is a voluntary program.
 	
A more accurate quote could be provided to the state by, allowing a price break out per test (inclusive of test kit & laboratory services, shipping & handling, etc.) with a labor line item indicating the cost of specimen collection/supervision on a range of participants.
 	
EXAMPLE:
Test Rate for Rapid Antigen $_____
Test Rate for Molecular$_____
Labor - cost of collection services for 1 - 5,000 participants $_____
	No, Vendors must utilize the Cost Table in the RFP using
	
	    1. **One Time Setup fee for each participating school**
	
	    2. **Individual Test rates**
	
	The purpose for this model is to be able to evaluate the responses accurately.

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Labor - cost of collection services for 5,001-10,000 participants $ _____ Labor - cost of collection services for 10,001 - 15,000 participants $_____ etc.	
61 We respectfully request the unlimited liability term be modified, and limited to the amount paid to the contractor under the contract, <<or cap - confirming amount>> Attachment A, section 23	**As an entity of the state of Mississippi, MSDH cannot enter into a contract that limits damages. Paragraph 23, *No Limitation of Liability*, is a standard contract clause that has been reviewed and approved for use in MSDH contracts by counsel from the Mississippi State Attorney General's Office as an accurate statement of Mississippi law.** **As an entity of the state of Mississippi, MSDH cannot enter into a contract that limits damages to contract price. In order to remain in compliance with Mississippi law, the clause will not be modified as requested.** **(See Mississippi Attorney General Opinion 2002-0606 Chamberlin October 18, 2002)**
62 Would the State consider at-home OTC rapid testing (At-home BinaxNOW or Quikvue) with EUA as a valid testing option instead of a CLIA-waived centrally administered rapid antigen test? Appendix C, Pricing Table	**No. Testing may be self-collected, but if self-collection is used, the specimen collection must be vendor supervised. Home tests are not in scope.**
63 If at-home rapid antigen testing is an option, please include a separate line in the pricing table. Appendix C, Pricing Table	**At home testing is not an option.**
64 Would you consider a molecular pooled test with EUA?	**No. Pooled testing is not in the scope of the School Screening Testing project.**
65 If molecular pooled testing is an option, please add a separate line in the pricing table for a pooled tube.	**No. Pooled testing is not in the scope of the School Screening Testing project.**
66 Is it possible to separate the staffing cost from the fully loaded test cost to give the schools the flexibility to design	**No. Vendors must utilize the Cost Table in the RFP using**

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
a program that works best for them, e.g., number of days per week of support, number of external staff members per school, etc.?	1. **One Time Setup fee for each participating school** 2. **Individual Test rates** **The purpose for this model is to be able to evaluate the responses accurately.**
67 Are incentives to students and schools acceptable as a way to drive program participation?	**No. Incentives for students and schools are not included in the scope of the School Screening Testing program**
68 If incentives are acceptable, please include one additional line in the pricing model to specify the incentive per test.	**No. Incentives for students and schools are not included in the scope of the School Screening Testing program**